

# CHICAGO STRATEGIC ACTION COUNCIL (CSAC)



## Cultural Responsiveness — Who We Are

Our citywide workgroup brings together prevention providers, community partners, and public health stakeholders to strengthen the quality and consistency of prevention services across Chicago. Our purpose is to provide resources, tools, and support that help prevention providers embed culturally responsive practices into their daily work.

## Why Cultural Responsiveness Matters

Culturally responsive prevention meets people where they are, in their community and in their lived experiences. Culturally relevant prevention methodologies are essential for providing all families with effective and respectful services, thereby ensuring they can lead successful, healthy, and thriving lives.

### This work:

-  Centers community wisdom and diverse cultural perspectives
-  Helps providers understand and address systemic inequities
-  Builds trust through authentic, tailored engagement – prioritizing communities, not discriminating against others
-  Supports healthier long-term outcomes across Chicago, reducing the need for costly treatment and crisis services



## What We Are Building

Our workgroup is developing shared tools to strengthen the prevention ecosystem. Our priorities for investment include:

### Equity Language Bank

A shared glossary of equity-centered and prevention-focused terms, phrases, and definitions:

- Avoids jargon and uses accessible, community-focused language
- Reflects lived experience across diverse cultural contexts
- Offers a shared framework for consistent messaging – a unified “voice”

### Messaging Guide

A practical reference tool that helps providers frame prevention messages for varying audiences (funders, policymakers, communities, partners) using equity-centered language:

- Storytelling frameworks and success examples, “success” being defined in a culturally responsive way
- Examples of how to highlight prevention’s long-term impact and systemic approach

## Restricted Language Workarounds

A resource that supports providers in communicating equitably while still meeting state or federal reporting requirements that may limit terminology:

- Authentic, person-centered alternatives to restricted terms
- Staying truthful to community-driven values while fulfilling compliance

## How We Demonstrate Impact

Funders can expect consistent and meaningful measures of success, including:

- ▶ More consistent and aligned use of equity-centered prevention messaging among providers and across organizations
- ▶ Stronger prevention strategies rooted in community needs and lived experiences
- ▶ Greater ability to navigate restrictive policy environments while staying committed to prevention principles



## Resources Needed

Support for flexible funding that allows for innovative programming and adaptability across diverse communities

Investment in equity-centered work and funding of prevention approaches that align with community needs

Access to high-quality data sources and research expertise to support the development of a shared voice and ensure prevention work is guided by current evidence

